

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SS-15 DHA-02 INR-07 INRE-00 ARAE-00

SSO-00 /037 W

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O 051240Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7421

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 6547

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, AR, US

SUBJECT: CALL ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6426

1. AT HIS REQUEST, I CALLED ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ALLARA LAST EVENING. HE HAD A NUMBER OF POINTS TO TAKE UP. FIRST WAS LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN HARKIN TO PRESIDENT VIDELA MENTIONED BY FOREIGN MINISTER GUZZETTI AT AIRPORT (SEE REFTEL). ALLARA SAID PRESIDENT VIDELA WAS INCLINED NOT TO ANSWER IT. ALLARA THEN ASKED MY ADVICE. AFTER READING LETTER (TEXT OF WHICH BEING POUCHED TO DEPT), I NOTED THAT LETTER WAS OUTSIDE DIPLOMATIC NORMS AND PROBABLY VIOLATED CONSTITUTIONAL DIVISION OF POWERS. DECISION AS TO WHAT TO DO WITH IT WAS OF COURSE THEIRS, BUT ON PERSONAL BASIS MY ADVICE WOULD BE NOT TO ANSWER IT DIRECTLY; RATHER, THEY SHOULD HAVE THEIR AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON FIRST CHECK WITH DEPT AND THEN, IF LATTER HAD NO OBJECTIONS, TO CALL ON CONGRESSMAN HARKIN AND DISCUSS MATTER PERSONALLY.

2. ALLARA THANKED ME FOR PERSONAL COUNSEL AND INDICATED PRESIDENT MAY WISH TO SEE ME RE LETTER "IN A FEW DAYS"-- THUS INDICATING THERE MAY BE NO IMMEDIATE DISPOSITION OF LETTER. I ASKED IF IT WERE TRUE, AS I HAD READ IN PRESS, THAT SOME 56 AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN HAD WRITTEN PRESIDENT VIDELA ON QUESTION OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN ARGENTINA. ALLARA PROMISED TO CONFIRM WITH PRESIDENT AND LET ME KNOW SOONEST.

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3. NEXT POINT WAS PATRICIA ERB. ALLARA SAID DECREE WOULD BE SIGNED SHORTLY (INDEED, APPARENTLY IT HAD BEEN SIGNED IN INTERIOR MINISTRY JUST BEFORE I CALLED AT FOREIGN MINISTRY) AND SHE WOULD BE EXPELLED WITHIN DAY OR TWO (SHE IS TO BE EXPELLED ON BRANIFF FLIGHT TONIGHT OCT 5. HE NOTED THAT EXPULSION HAD BEEN DIFFICULT DECISION SINCE ERB ADMITTED INVOLVEMENT IN PRT (POLITICAL ARM OF ERP), ONE OF THE VERY ORGANIZATIONS ARMED FORCES WERE MAKING GREAT SACRIFICES IN EFFORT TO CONTROL. DESPITE HER GUILT, GOA DID NOT WISH CASE TO PERTURB RELATIONS WITH US. THUS, HE EMPHASIZED, FACT THAT SHE BEING EXPELLED RESULTED SOLELY FROM VALUE GOA PLACES ON ITS RELATIONS WITH US. TO MAKE CERTAIN THERE NO DOUBT CONCERNING HER INVOLVEMENT, HE GAVE ME HANDWRITTEN AND SIGNED COPIES OF HER STATEMENT ADMITTING MEMBERSHIP IN PRT (COPIES BEING POUCHED TO DEPT).

4. THIRD POINT HAD TO DO WITH FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS. ALLARA SAID GOA DISTURBED BY SOME OF SUBCOMMITTEE'S ALLEGATIONS REPORTED IN PRESS AND ESPECIALLY SO IN VIEW OF CERTAIN OF THE WITNESSES WHO WERE THEMSELVES INVOLVED IN SUBVERSION. HE THEN HANDED ME BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON GUSTAVO ROCA, LUCIO CLAUDIO GARZON MACEDO AND RODOLFO PUIGGROS, OUTLINING THEIR INVOLVEMENT WITH SUBVERSIVE GROUPS.

5. ALLARA SAID GOA SURPRISED BY ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING ANTI-SEMITISM, ESPECIALLY AS THEY CAME ALMOST AT SAME TIME PRESIDENT VIDELA WAS SITTING DOWN TO LUNCH WITH NUMBER OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS INCLUDING RABBI. HE SAID THESE RELIGIOUS LEADERS HAD AGREED THAT GOA TAKING EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO CONTROL ANY MANIFESTATIONS OF ANTI-SEMITISM AND TO ASSURE FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION GENERALLY. THERE WAS ANTI-SEMITISM IN ARGENTINA, ALLARA ADMITTED, JUST AS THERE WAS IN US. BUT PROBLEM WAS BEING REATLY EXAGGERATED ABROAD. FURTHER, IT DID NOT REFLECT ATTITUDE OF GOA. ON CONTRARY, GOA WAS TAKING MEASURES TO PUT AN END TO IT, JUST AS USG WAS TAKING MEASURES TO END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST BLACKS IN US.

6. ALLARA THEN HANDED ME MEMO, WHICH, IN EFFECT, CONSISTED OF TALKING POINTS FOR WHAT HE HAD JUST SAID TO ME RE FRASER HEARINGS. MEMO HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR HIS OWN BACKGROUND, HE SAID, AND HAD NO OFFICIAL STANDING. I ASKED IF I SHOULD TAKE HIS REF-  
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ERENCES TO HEARING AS A VERBAL PROTEST. HE REPLIED NEGATIVELY. THIS WAS NOT A PROTEST; RATHER, HE WISHED TO DISCUSS HEARINGS IN SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION. HE WAS GIVING ME MEMO IN SAME SPIRIT. LAST PARAGRAPH OF MEMO READ: "GOA WISHES TO TRANSMIT TO USG ITS CONCERN OVER THIS ACTION WHICH AFFECTS OUR COUNTRY AND ITS AUTHORITIES, APPRECIATING THAT EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE THE SITUATION WILL CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING THE FRIENDSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES."

7. FINAL POINT, ALLARA SAID, WAS THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED REPORT FROM AMBASSADOR MUSICH ON OCT 2 INDICATING US WOULD APPLY HARKIN AMENDMENT IN UPCOMING VOTE IN IDB ON \$30 MILLION LOAN TO ARGENTINA. ALLARA ASKED IF THIS TRUE. I SAID I HAD NO INFORMATION AT ALL ON MATTER AND WOULD HAVE TO QUERY DEPT OF STATE. (IS THIS SAME LOAN REFERRED TO IN STATE 245400?).

8. I SUGGESTED TO ALLARA THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME MERIT IN GETTING VARIOUS MEMBERS OF OUR STAFFS TOGETHER TO GO OVER HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE ONCE AGAIN, SO THAT WE COULD EXPLAIN TO THEM NOT ONLY LEGISLATION BUT HOW PROBLEM IS PERCEIVED IN US AND THEY, IN TURN, COULD EXPLAIN MORE FULLY THEIR POSITION TO US. IT MIGHT NOT CHANGE SITUATION, BUT AT LEAST WE COULD BE SURE WE UNDERSTOOD ONE ANOTHER'S POSITIONS AND THUS, IN MY VIEW, WAS WORTH THE EFFORT. ALLARA AGREED THAT IDEA HAD MERIT AND SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ME SHORTLY.  
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